(d) The ASI has proposed a six-phased conservation programme spreading over a span of 10 years from 2004-2014. The total expenditure involved in the conservation work is estimated at Rs. 19.57 crores.

(e) and (f) If any such proposals are received, they will be appropriately considered.

Recall of Indian Diplomat from Mauritius

959. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mauritius had at any time requested for the recall of an Indian diplomat from the Indian High Commission in that country for misconduct and activities not in consonance with his diplomatic status;

(b) whether the diplomat concerned had been recalled;

(c) whether allegations against the officer were investigated;

(d) whether the official had been found culpable; and

(e) if so, the action taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) The Government of Mauritius has not requested for recall of any Indian diplomat from the Indian High Commission in that country for any reason.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Demands of Indian Diaspora in Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

960. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Diaspora, which took part in Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebrations sought e-visa *via* internet, besides a better platform for networking amongst the Diaspora, creation of SEZ, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the other suggestions made by the Indian Diaspora; and

(c) the action that has been contemplated by Government on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) A number of suggestions were made by NRIs and PIOs during the first and second Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. Some of the salient suggestions are as follows:

(i) Special attention to be paid to children of Gulf NRIs keeping in view their special needs.

(ii) More Indian schools to be opened in the Gulf.

(iii) A budget airline between India and Gulf countries.

(iv) Establishment of a welfare fund for Indian workers in Gulf.

(v) To organize regular Indian film festivals in Gulf.

(vi) To facilitate Indian banks to open more branches in the Gulf region.

(vii) Re-examine the Kelkar Committee recommendations on abolishing tax concessions for those who have NOR status.

(viii) Follow up IRDA's offer to support private entrepreneurs to take the initiative to motivate members of the Diaspora to provide Life Insurance cover to their relatives in India.

(ix) NRIs expressed concern about SEBI's recent guide lines about OCBs that put obstacles in the easy flow of NRI money into India. The ceiling on NRI deposits was discussed as not being efficient for banks or their customers.

(x) Organize regular workshops to bring together Ethnic Indian Media from the Diaspora and the Indian Media.

(xi) Promote Indian languages in countries where the Diaspora is strong.

(xii) An attempt should be made to link the Resident Indians and the Diaspora through News and educational programmes.

(xiii) Ethnic Media should gradually merge into the main stream media in their host countries and gain larger acceptability there.

(xiv) To have a separate legislation for International Marriages.

(xv) Effective law to be made in the context of Indian Government's ability to protect those who get Dual Nationality when they go to a third country.

(xvi) Constituting a Core Group to tackle the problems faced by NRIs with regard to marriage, maintenance and custody of children.

(xvii) To create Diaspora Cells in Indian Missions abroad.

(xviii) To simplify procedures at airports for immigration and custom for holders of PIO card and Dual Citizenship.

(xix) To increase seat capacity especially during peak season and develop small airports at tourist destinations away from major metros.

(xx) To create user-friendly database of Diaspora professors and scientists who are willing to and are capable of interacting with the industry.

(xxi) Work with the Home Ministry towards simplification of FCRA, 1976 to enable India to receive more remittances from PIOs for philanthropic activities.

(xxii) Launching of off shore campuses of Indian Universities like IIMs, NTs and Medical Colleges in collaboratioin with the host countries.

(xxiii) Educate students about Private International Law by introducing it in the curriculum itself.

(xxiv) Ensure specific measures to attract NRI/PIO investment in the Health Care Sector.

(xxv) Form a working group to work out detailed action plan to increase cultural cooperation Indian and its Diaspora.

(c) All the suggestions made during the 1st and 2nd Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries, State Governments and other relevant organisations. A number of suggestions received from NRIs/PIOs have already been implemented. Every effort is made to implement feasible and practicable suggestions emanating from the Diaspora.